

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 NEAE-00 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01
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INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
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AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
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AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
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USMISSION SINAI
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 5498

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT IS
SUBJ: PEACE NOW GATHERS NEW MOMENTUM

REF.: TEL AVIV 5184

1. AFTER A BRIEF LULL DURING WHICH THE PEACE NOW
(PN) MOVEMENT APPEARED TO BE GROPING FOR WAYS TO
FOLLOW-UP ON ITS INITIAL SUCCESS, THE MOVEMENT HAS
SUDDENLY PICKED UP STEAM. LAST WEEK ITS LEADERS MET
WITH DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER YADIN, WHO WAS QUOTED AS
SAYING HE WOULD NOT HESITATE TO SUPPORT THEM IF THE
MOVEMENT REPLACED ITS PRESENT GENERALIZATIONS WITH
SPECIFICS CONSISTENT WITH THE DMC PLATFORM. ACCORDING
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TO THE JERUSALEM POST, YADIN AND THE PN REPRESENTATIVES
(WHICH INCLUDED DMC PARTY MEMBERS) ACKNOWLEDGED THAT
THEIR POSITIONS WERE IN AGREEMENT ON THE NEED FOR TERRI-
TORIAL COMPROMISE AND FOR SECURITY SETTLEMENTS. THE NEXT
DAY (APRIL 21) PRIME MINISTER BEGIN, REVERSING THE
PREVIOUS LIKUD ATTITUDE CHARACTERIZED BY CONTEMPTUOUS
REFERENCES TO PN BY FINANCE MINISTER EHRLICH AND HIMSELF,

RECEIVED A PN DELEGATION FOR AN HOUR AND A HALF. BEGIN STOUTLY DEFENDED HIS POSITION AND THE GROUP LEFT PRO-FESSING DISAPPOINTMENT, BUT HAVING AT LEAST REAPED SOME PR BENEFITS FROM THE MEETING.

2. EARLIER MORE TANGIBLE ASSISTANCE CAME FROM TEN KNESSET MEMBERS WHO ISSUED A PUBLIC STATEMENT OF SUPPORT FOR PEACE NOW OBJECTIVES. IN ADDITION TO OPPOSITION MKS EBAN, ALLON, BAR AM, GROSSMAN, BAR LEV, HAKOHEN, SARID AND ALONE, DMC DOVES GOLOMB AND WIRSHUBSKY JOINED IN DEMANDING THAT THE GOVERNMENT DECLARE ITS WILLINGNESS FOR SOME WITHDRAWAL IN ALL SECTORS AND RECOGNIZE THE RIGHT OF PALESTINIAN ARABS - BUT NOT THE PLO - TO POLITICAL EXPRESSION NOT UNDER ISRAELI RULE.

3. ANOTHER SHOT IN THE ARM FOR PN WAS A CABLE OF SUPPORT FROM 37 PROMINENT AMERICAN JEWS, INCLUDING TWO NOBLE PRIZE WINNERS, LEADING ACADEMICIANS, INTELLECTUALS AND OTHER LUMINARIES. TODAY'S HAARETZ CARRIES AN AD ON BEHALF ON PN SIGNED BY 350 ISRAELIS WELL KNOWN IN THE ARTS AND SCIENCES AND THE ACADEMIC WORLD. AMONG THE NAMES ARE 150 PROFESSORS, INCLUDING PROF. ARYE DVORETZSKY, PRESIDENT OF THE ISRAEL ACADEMY OF SCIENCE, AND HIS PREDECESSOR IN THAT POSITION, PROF GERSHOM SHALOM, THREE WINNERS OF THE ISRAEL PRIZE AND THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY ARAB EXPERT, PROF YEHOSEFAT HARKABI. THE AD WARNS THAT CONFIDENTIAL

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THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY IS NOT LEADING TO PEACE BUT TO A LOSS OF FRIENDS, INCREASING ISRAEL'S ISOLATION AND THE SPLITTING OF WORLD JEWRY. THIS POLICY STOPS THE PEACE MOMENTUM, WEAKENS SECURITY AND INCREASES THE DANGER OF WAR, ACCORDING TO THE AD.

4. A PETITION SIGNED BY 300 RELIGIOUS JEWS SUPPORTING PN DEMANDS IS EXPECTED TO BE PRESENTED TO BEGIN TODAY. THE PETITIONERS ARE SAID TO INCLUDE RABBIS, PROFESSORS AND MEMBERS OF THE RELIGIOUS SETTLEMENTS MOVEMENTS. TOMORROW A POSTCARD AND SIGNATURE CAMPAIGN WILL CLIMAX WITH DELIVERY BY HAND-TO-HAND RELAY FROM A POINT OUTSIDE OF JERUSALEM OF SACKS OF POSTCARDS TO THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE.

5. COMMENT: THE SUDDEN SPURT IN ACTIVITY IS INDEED IMPRESSIVE. THERE APPEARS TO BE NO ABATEMENT IN CONCERN AMONG ISRAELIS THAT WITH NEGOTIATIONS ON DEAD CENTER, THE PROSPECTS FOR PEACE ARE RECEDING, NOTWITHSTANDING DAYAN AND BEGIN'S FORTHCOMING WASHINGTON TALKS. THE OUTCOME OF THE TALKS WILL, OF COURSE, IMPACT ON THE PN EFFORTS. MOVEMENT TOWARD THE RESUMPTION OF HIGH-

LEVEL NEGOTIATIONS WITH CAIRO, OWR EXAMPLE,
WOULD PROBABLY PUSH PN INTO THE BACKGROUND. OVER THE
NEXT FEW DAYS WE CAN EXPECT SECURE PEACE TO PLACE THEIR OWN
ADS AND MOUNT COUNTER-CAMPAIGNS; HOWEVER IN THEIR SKIRMISHES PN
DEFINITELY RETAINS THE INITIATIVE.
INTERESTINGLY, A GROWING NUMBER OF
RELATIVE HARD-LINERS, SUCH AS HARKABI, WHO BELIEVE
ISRAEL'S SECURITY REQUIRES MAJOR ADJUSTMENTS
IN THE 1967 LINES, ARE RALLYING TO PN'S BANNER. IT
IS BEGIN'S APPARENT INFLEXIBILITY ON RETAINING ALL
OF JUDEA AND SAMARIA AND THE GOI'S INDISCRIMINATE
SETTLEMENT ACTIVITY THAT THEY SEEK TO CHANGE. VIETS

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